CHAPTER 8 ACRONYMS AND GLOSSARY

Acronyms

A	amperes
AASHTO	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
AC	alternating current
ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
ACGIH	American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
AGL	above ground level
AHPA	Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act
AIRFA	American Indian Religious Freedom Act
AM	aplitude modulation
AMC	Anaconda Minerals Co.
APE	Area of Potential Effects
ARCADIS	ARCADIS U.S., Inc.
ARM	Administrative Rules of Montana
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act
AUM	a unit of measure = to the amount of forage needed to sustain one animal unit (or its equivalent) for one month
B.P.	Before Present
BA	Biological Assessment
BDNF	Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest
BE	Biological Evaluation
BEA	Battelle Energy Alliance
BGEPA	Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practices
BNSF	Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railway
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
BS	Bachelor's of Science
CAMA	Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal
CDHA	California Department of Health Services
CDNST	Continental Divide National Scenic Trail
CE	conservation easements
CEQ	Council of Environmental Quality
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
CERCLIS	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System
CFA	Central Facilities Act
CMAQ	Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement
COM	Construction, Operation and Maintenance

CPG	Construction General Permit
CPP	Chemical Processing Act
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program Land
CRUP	Cultural Resource Use Permit
CWA	Clean Water Act
dB	decibel
dBµV/m	decibel microvolt per meter
dBA	A-weighted decibels
DC	direct current
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
DOI	U.S. Department of the Interior
DTM	Digital Terrain Mapping
EA	Environmental Assessment
EHV	extra high voltage
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ELF	extremely low frequency
EMB	Environmental Management Bureau
EMF	electric and magnetic field
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPRI	Electric Power Research Institute
EQPF	Environmental Quality Protection Fund
ERMA	Extensive Recreation Management Areas
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
ESRI	Environmental Systems Research Institutes
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FAS	Fishing Access Site
FCC	Federal Communication Commission
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Committee
FFA/CO	Federal Facility Agreement/Consent Order
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
FP	Forest Plan
FPA	Federal Power Act
FS	Forest Service
FSA	Farm Service Area
ft	feet
ft^2	square feet
GHz	gigahertz
GIS	geographic information system
GPS	global positioning system
GYA	Greater Yellowstone Area
Hz	hertz; cycles per second
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer

ID	Idaho
ID	identification
IDEQ	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
IDL	Idaho Department of Lands
IDPR	Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
IDT	Idaho Department of Transportation
IFG	Idaho Fish and Game
IGS	Idaho Geologic Survey
INEEL	Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory
INEL	Idaho National Engineering Laboratory
INL	Idaho National Laboratory
IPCO	Idaho Power Company
IR	Instrument Flight Rules
IRA	Inventoried Roadless Area
IRP	Integrated Resource Plan
ISHS	Idaho State Historical Society
ITD	Idaho Transportation Department
Kcmil	1,000 circular mils
KGRA	Known Geothermal Resource Area
kHz	kilohertz
KOP	key observation points
kV	kilovolt
kV/m	kilovolts per meter
kWh	kilowatt hours
L_{50}	sound level exceeded 50 percent of the time
LCNHA	Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail
Ldn	day-night average noise level
Leq	equivalent, average sound level
LHTA	Limestone Hills Training Area
LMR	2-way land/mobile radio
LRMP	Land Resource Management Plan
LWFC	Land and Water Conservation Fund
M	magnitude
MA	Management Area
mA	milliampere
Ma	million years ago
MAPP	Mid-Continent Area Power Pool
MATL	Montana Alberta Tie Ltd.
MBMG	Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MCA	Montana Code Annotated
MDEQ	Montana Department of Environmental Quality
MDNRC	Montana Department of National Resources and Conservation
MDT	Montana Department of Transportation
MEPA	Montana Environmental Policy Act

MFP	Management Framework Plan
MFSA	Montana Major Facility Siting Act
MFWP	Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
mG	Milligauss
MHz	Megahertz
MOA	Military Operating Areas
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	mile post
MPDES	Montana Pollution Discharge Elimination System
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organizations
MPSC	Montana Public Service Commission
MSTI	Mountain States Transmission Intertie
MT	Montana
MTARNG	Montana Army National Guard
MTR	Military Training Routes
mVA	Megavolt-amperes
MW	megawatts
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
NAIP	National Agriculture Imagery Program
NALMA	North American Land Mammal Age
NARBA	North American Regional Broadcasting Agreement
NAS	National Academy of Sciences
NCA	National Conservation Area
NEPA	National Environmental Protection Act
NERC	North American Electric Reliability Council
NESC	National Electric and Safety Code
NFMA	National Forest Management Act
NFS	National Forest Service
NHP	Montana National Heritage Program
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NIEHA	National Institute of Environmental Health Services
NLCS	National Landscape Conservation System
NNL	national natural landmarks
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOI	Notice of Intent
NOT	Notice of Termination
NPA	National Primitive Area
NPDES	National Pollution Elimination System
NPL	National Priorities List
NPS	National Park Service
NRA	National Recreation Area
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
NREL	National Renewable Energy Laboratory
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NRIS	Natural Resource Information System

NTSA	National Trails System Act
NTTG	Northern Tier Transmission Group
NWA	National Wilderness Area
NWE	NorthWestern Energy
NWI	National Wetland Inventory
NWPS	National Wilderness Preservation System or Wilderness System
NWR	National Wildlife Refuges and Ranges
NWSRS	National Wild and Scenic River Study (CHECK THIS)
OASIS	Open Access Sametime Information System
OHGW	overhead ground wire
OHV	off-highway vehicle
OPAs	Outfitter Permit Areas
OPGW	optical power ground wire
ORV	off road vehicle
OSC	Oil Spill Contingency
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Act
OTC	Operating Transfer Capacity
OUs	operating units
PA	Programmatic Agreement
PAB	plaustrine aquatic bed
PCP	pentacholorphenol
PEIS	Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
PEM	plaustrine emergent
PFYC	Potential Fossil Yield Classification
PL	Public Law
Plan	Paleontological Monitoring and Treatment Plan
POD	Plan of Development
POD	Point of Delivery
POL	petroleum, oil and lubricants
POR	Point of Receipt
POWER	POWER Engineers, Inc.
PSS	plaustrine scrub-shrub
PST	phase-shifting transformer
PTP	point to point
PU	Planning Unit
PUB	plaustrine unconsolidated bottom
PUS	plaustrine unconsolidated shore
R2	wetland type – lower perennial
R3	wetland type – upper perennial
R4	wetland type – intermittent
RAPID	Research and Public Information Dissemination
RARE II	Roadless Area Review Evaluation
RD/RA	remedial design/remedial action
Reclamation	Bureau of Reclamation
RF	radio frequency

RI	radio interference
RMA	Recreation Management Areas
RMATS	Rocky Mountain Area Transmission Study
RMP	Resource Management Plan
RN	radio noise
RNA	research natural area
RNP	Renewable Northwest Project
ROD	Records of Decision
ROO	Recreation Opportunity Objectives
ROS	recreation opportunity spectrum
ROW	right-of-way
RPS	Renewable Portfolio Standard
RUSLE	Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation
SAFETEA	Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users
SCADA	supervisory control and data acquisition
SCFF	self-contained fluid filled
SCORP	Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
SH	State Highway
SHPO	Montana State Historic Preservation Office
SIL	surge impedance load
SIO	Scenic Integrity Objectives
SMS	Scenery Management System
SNR	signal to noise ratio
SPCC	Spill Prevention, Countermeasure and Control
SRMA	Special Recreation Management Area
SRP	Special Recreation Permit
SSURGO	NRCS Soil Survey Graphic Database
Stat.	Statute
STATSGO	State Soil Geographic
STIP	Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
SVP	Society of Vertebrate Paleontology
SWIP	Southeast Intertie Project
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
TCP	traditional cultural properties
TE	Transportation Engineering
TEPPC	Transmission Expansion Planning Policy Committee
TIP	Transportation Improvement Program
TOT3	Wyoming to Colorado Transmission Project
TRA	Test Reaction Area
TRS	Transmission Service Requests
TVI	television interference
U.S.	United States
UPRR	Union Pacific Railroad
US Hwy	United States Highway

USACE	U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Service
USLE	Universal Soil Loss Equation
UXO	unexplained ordnance
V	volts
V/m	volts per meter
VMS	Visual Management System
VQO	Visual Quality Objectives
VR	Visual Flight Rules
VRM	Visual Resource Management Inventory Rating System
WAG	waste area group
WECC	Western Electricity Coordinating Council
WEG	wind erodibility group
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
WRCC	Western Regional Climate Center
WREZ	Western Renewable Energy Zones
WSA	Wildlife Study Area
WUG	Western Utility Group
WUI	Wildland Urban Interface
XLPE	cross-linked polyethylene

Glossary

Access (road)
Road used for passage to and along transmission line for purposes of construction and maintenance.

ACSR
Concentrically stranded conductor composed of one or more layers of aluminum alloy wire stranded with a high-strength steel core. See conductor.

Aesthetic Quality
A perception of beauty of a natural or cultural landscape.

Affected Environment
A geographic area and the associated natural, human, and cultural resources that could be influenced by a proposed action. Also, the chapter in an environmental impact statement that describes the existing condition of the environment.

Alignment
The specific, surveyed route of a transmission line.

Alluvial Fan
A gradually sloping mass of alluvium (sand, clay, etc., deposited by moving water) that widens out like a fan from the place where a stream issues from a narrow mountain valley upon a plain or broad valley.

Alluvium
A general term for clay, silt, sand, gravel, or similar consolidated material deposited during comparatively recent geologic time by a stream or other body of running water in the bed of the stream, river, or floodplain, or as a cone or fan at the base of a mountain slope.

Alternative (action)
An option for meeting the stated need.

Alternative (route)
An optional path or direction for a transmission line.

Archaeology
The science that investigates the history of peoples by the remains belonging to the earlier periods of their existence.

Archival

Pertaining to or contained in documents or records that preserve information about an event or individual.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

A Bureau of Land Management (BLM) designation for an area within public lands where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life from natural hazards.

Artifact

Any object showing human workmanship or modification, especially from a prehistoric or historic culture.

Audible Noise

Produced by transmission line corona and sounds like a hissing, popping, crackling, or humming.

Background

That portion of the visual landscape lying from the outer limit of the middleground to infinity. Color and texture are subdued in this area, and visual sensitivity analysis here is primarily concerned with the two-dimensional shape of landforms against the sky.

Batch Plant Site

An area used for concrete mixing, temporary field office facility, material storage, and stations for equipment maintenance during construction of the transmission line. The area usually covers approximately two acres.

Best Management Practices

A practice or combination of practices that are determined to be the most effective and practicable (including technological, economic and institutional considerations) means of controlling point and non-point pollutants, at levels compatible with environmental quality goals.

Bundle

Two or more conductors combined to form a phase.

Bundled conductor

Two or more conductors used per phase; standard construction for 500 kV lines is often a bundle of three conductors per phase. A bundle of four conductors per phase is also used on 500 kV lines.

Bus

A conductor or group of conductors that serves as a common connection for two or more circuits, and is used to interconnect equipment of the same voltage.

Bus Support Structures
An assembly of bus conductors with associated connection joints and insulating supports.

Buswork
A combination of bus structures.

Capacity
The maximum load that can be generated or transmitted by generating or transmission facilities for a given period of time without exceeding approved limits of temperature or stress.

Centerline
A line along the approximate middle of a transmission line right-of-way.

Circuit
A complete closed conducting path over which electric current may flow.

Circuit Breaker
A switching device capable of making, carrying and interrupting currents under normal circuit conditions and also making, carrying conditions such as those under faults or short circuits. The medium in which circuit interruption is performed may be designated, as in oil circuit breaker, air-blast circuit breaker, gas or sulfur hexafluoride circuit breaker, or vacuum circuit breaker.

Conductor
1) Any metallic material, usually in the form of wire, cable or bar, suitable for carrying an electric current; 2) The wire cable strung between transmission towers through which the electrical current may flow. May be aluminum, bundle, expanded, non-specular, single or stranded conductor.

Contrast
The effect of a striking difference in the form, line, color or texture of an area being viewed.

Contrast Rating
A method of determining the extent of visual impact for an existing or proposed activity that would modify any landscape feature (land and water form, vegetation and structures).

Corona
The discharge of energy from an energized transmission line that occurs when the voltage gradient exceeds the breakdown strength of air.

Corridor

A continuous strip of land of defined width, through which a linear utility route (or routes) passes.

CRP Lands

Farmlands for which a landowner receives an annual payment, and cost-share assistance to establish long-term resource conserving covers. Administered by the U.S. Farm Service Agency.

Cultural Resources

Those fragile and non renewable remains of human activities, occupations, and endeavors as reflected in sites, buildings, structures or objects, including works of art, architecture and engineering.

Cumulative Effect

Environmental effects that result from the incremental impact of a Proposed Action in addition to other actions (past, present, or future) in the vicinity. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

Cumulative Impact

The impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor by collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time (40 CFR 1508.7).

Current

The flow of electricity. A voltage will always try to drive a current. The size current that is driven depends on the resistance of the circuit.

dB(A)

Stands for A weighted decibels. This decibel scale is used to approximate the way human hearing responds more to some frequencies than to others.

Dead-end Structure

Transmission line tower structures that are more robust than tangent structures, used (1) to add longitudinal strength to the line, (2) at turning points (angles), (3) for added safety at crossings of other utilities such as other transmission lines and roads, and (4) to interrupt long distances of suspension structures that would otherwise provide more exposure to catastrophic line failure over long distances.

Delta Configuration

They physical geometry of power line conductors which most closely resembles an equilateral triangle.

Disconnect Switch

A power system switch, manually or motor operated, used for changing connections in a circuit (open or closed) or for isolating a circuit or piece of equipment from the source of power. Also called a disconnecting switch.

Distance Zone

A visibility threshold distance where visual perception changes. The zones are usually defined as foreground, middleground and background.

Easement

A general term for a limited right to make use of a property owned by another party.

Electric Fields

Produced by voltages, irrespective of how much current is flowing and indeed whether any current is flowing at all. The electric field is the region around a conductor where a force will be experienced by a charge.

Electric Transmission Grid

The western grid moves power from many different generating plants to customers and their electric loads.

Electromagnetic Interference

High frequency electrical noise that can cause radio and television interference.

Emergent Wetland

Any area of a vegetated wetland where non-woody vegetation (e.g. cattail, grasses, sedges) comprises at least 30 percent areal cover.

EMFs

Electric and magnetic fields. Sometimes also defined as electromagnetic fields, which usually means the same thing.

Environmental Effect

Any change that an action may cause in the environment, including biological resources, land use, health and socioeconomic conditions, cultural heritage, geology and paleontology.

Environmental Justice

Evaluation of potential disproportionately high and adverse impacts on low income and/or minority populations that may result from a Proposed Action.

Ephemeral Drainage

A stream or stream segment that flows only briefly in response to local precipitation and has no base flow.

Erosion

Wearing away of soil and rock by weathering and the actions of surface water, wind, and underground water.

Farmland of Statewide Importance

Land that is of statewide importance for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oil seed crops. Criteria for defining and delineating this land are to be determined by the appropriate State agency or agencies. Generally, additional farmlands of statewide importance include those that are nearly prime farmland and that economically produce high yields of corps when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)

Agency primarily responsible for ensuring adequate energy supplies at just and reasonable rates and providing regulatory incentives for increased productivity, efficiency, and competition.

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA)

Public Law 94-579 signed by the President on October 21, 1976. Established public land policy for management lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). FLPMA specifies several key directions for the BLM, notably (1) management on the basis of multiple-use and sustained yield, (2) land use plans prepared to guide management actions, (4) public lands retained in Federal ownership, and (5) public participation used in reaching management decisions.

Floodplain

That portion of a river or stream valley, adjacent to the river channel, which is built of sediments and is inundated with water when the stream overflows its banks.

Foreground

The visible area from a viewpoint or use area out to a distance of one-half mile. The ability to perceive detail in a landscape is greatest in this zone.

Foreground/Middleground

The area visible from a travel route, residence or other use area to a distance of three to five miles. The outer boundary of this zone is defined as the point where texture and form of individual plants are no longer apparent in the landscape. Vegetation is apparent only in patterns or outline.

Fossil

The remains or traces of an organism or assemblage of organisms that have been preserved by natural processes in the earth's crust; exclusive of organisms that have been buried since the beginning of historical time.

Fugitive Dust

A particulate emission made airborne by forces of wind, human activity, or both. Unpaved roads, construction sites, and tilled land are examples of areas that originate fugitive dust.

Ground Wire

Two wires installed along the transmission line at the top of the tower structures to protect the conductors from lightning strikes by transferring the energy from the lightning through the ground wires and structures into the ground below.

Habitat

The region where a plant or animal naturally grows or lives. A specific set of physical conditions that surround a single species, a group of species, or a large community. In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover, and home range.

Impact

A modification in the status of the environment brought about by a proposed action.

Impact Zone

The study area in which data are collected during the baseline study in order to make a determination of the impacts from construction, operation, maintenance, or decommissioning of a proposed facility or associated facility at preferred and reasonable alternative locations.

Indirect Impact

An effect that is related to, but removed from, a Proposed Action by an intermediate step or process.

Infrastructure

The basic facilities on which a community depends, such as schools, power plants, or transportation and communication systems.

Insulators

A device, made of porcelain or polymer, that prevents energized conductors from coming in contact with each other. They also prevent conductors from energizing structures or facilities that are not designed to carry electricity. Bushings are a type of insulator.

Intermittent Stream

A stream that flows in a well-defined channel in response to precipitation and is dry for part of the year.

Kcmil

kilo (1,000) circular mils.

Kilovolt (kV)

One kilovolt equals 1,000 volts. The volt is the unit for measuring electrical potential or "pressure".

Kilovolt ampere (kVA)

The practical unit of apparent power, which is 1,000 volt-amperes. The volt-amperes of an electric circuit are the mathematical products of the volts and amperes of the client.

Kilovolt Per Meter (kV/m)

A unit measure of electric field strength.

Kilowatt (kW)

The electric unit of power equal to 1,000 watts.

Kilowatt-Hour (kWh)

The basic unit of electric energy equal to one kilowatt of power supplied to or taken from an electric circuit for one hour.

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Landform

A term used to describe many types of land surfaces that exist as a result of geologic activity and weathering (e.g., plateaus, mountains, plains and valleys).

Landscape Character Type

The arrangement of a particular landscape as formed by the variety and intensity of the landscape features and the four basic elements of form, line, color and texture. These factors give the area a distinct quality that distinguishes it from immediate surroundings.

Lek

A traditional courtship display area attended by sharp-tailed grouse.

Linear Facility

An electric transmission line for pipeline covered under Montana's Major Facility Siting Act (MFSA).

Link

A segment of a route alternative sharing common endpoints with adjacent links. Endpoints of a link are determined by the location of intersection with other segments (links) of other routes.

Load

The amount of electric power delivered or required at any specified point or points on a system. Load originates primarily at the power consuming equipment of the customer.

MVA

Megavolt-ampere.

Megawatts (MW)

Megawatts, the electrical unit of power that is equal to 1,000 kilowatts or 1,000,000 watts.

Microwave

A very short electromagnetic wave.

Migratory

Birds, animals or people that migrate, or move from one region of the country to another.

Milliampere (mA)

Measure of electric current induced in conductive material within an electric field.

Milligauss (mG)

A unit of measure for magnetic fields.

Mitigate

To alleviate, reduce or render less intense or severe.

Mitigation

An action to avoid, minimize, reduce, eliminate, replace or rectify the impact of a management practice.

Montana Major Facility Siting Act (MFSA)

This law governs the siting of most large energy transporting facilities in Montana.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)

Public Law 91-190. Established environmental policy for the nation. This act requires federal agencies to evaluate the environmental effects of Proposed Actions.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)

A listing of architectural, archaeological, and cultural sites of local, state, or national significance, established by the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and maintained by the National Park Service.

Noxious Weed

Exotic (non-native) species of plants that proliferate and reduce the value of land for agriculture, forestry, livestock, wildlife or other beneficial uses.

Ohm

The unit of electrical resistance, defined to be the electrical resistance between two points of a conductor when a constant potential difference applied between these points produces in this conductor a current of one ampere. The resistance in ohms is numerically equal to the magnitude of the potential difference.

One-hundred-year Flood

A flood with a magnitude that may occur once every one hundred years. A 1-in-100 chance of a certain area being inundated during any year.

Paleontology

The science that deals with the life of past geological ages through the study of the fossil remains or organisms.

Phase

1) A conductor or conductors or piece of electrical equipment that is associated with one of three separate phases of an alternating-current power system, designated A-phase, B-phase and C-phase; 2) the stage or progress of a cyclic movement such as a current or voltage wave.

Physiographic Province

An area characterized by distinctive topography, geologic structure, climate, drainage patterns and other features and phenomena of nature.

Prey

An animal hunted or killed for food by another animal.

Prime Farmland

Land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber and oilseed crops, and is also available for these uses (land could be cropland, pastureland, rangeland, forest land, or other land, but not urban built-up land or water). It has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when treated and managed, including water management, according to acceptable farming methods.

Raptor

A bird of prey.

Reclamation

Returning disturbed lands to a form and productivity that will be ecologically balanced.

Reference Centerline

For purposes of assessing impacts and recommending mitigation. A centerline is assigned that may be slightly adjusted during engineering design.

Reliability

Electric system reliability has two components – adequacy and security. Adequacy is the ability of the electric system to supply to aggregate electrical demand and energy requirements of the customers at all times, taking into account scheduled and unscheduled outages of system facilities. Security is the ability of the electric system to withstand sudden disturbances, such as electric short circuits or unanticipated loss of system facilities. The degree of reliability may be measured by the frequency, duration, and magnitude of adverse effects on consumer services.

Residual Impact

The impact of an action remaining after application of mitigation.

Revegetation

The reestablishment and development of self-sustaining plant cover. On disturbed sites, this normally requires human assistance such as reseeding.

Right-of-way

The strip of land acquired by legal means, over which the power line and access roads would pass.

Riparian

An aquatic or terrestrial ecosystem associated with bodies of water, such as streams, lakes, or wetlands, or is dependent upon the existence of perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral surface or subsurface water drainage. Riparian areas are usually characterized by dense vegetation and an abundance and diversity of wildlife.

Route

The general path of a transmission line and associated facilities.

Scenic Quality Class

The designation (A, B, or C) assigned a scenic quality rating unit to indicate the visual importance or quality of a unit relative to other units within the same physiographic province (BLM designation).

Scenic Quality Rating Unit (SQRU)

A portion of the landscape that displays primarily homogeneous visual characteristics of the basic landscape features (landform, water, vegetation and structures and modifications) which separate it from the surrounding landscape.

Sediment

Solid fragmental material, either mineral or organic, transported or deposited by air, water, gravity, or ice.

Seen Area

The portion of the landscape which can be viewed from one or more observer positions. The extent or area that can be viewed is normally limited by landform, vegetation, structures or distance.

Selective Mitigation

Measures or techniques developed to reduce adverse impact on a case-by-case, or selective, basis.

Shield Wire

(see Ground Wire)

Site

In archaeology, any locale showing evidence of human activity.

Sock Line

Polyester synthetic rope using either single or double braid construction.

Special Status Species

Those of plants or animals that have a protective status designated by a state or federal agency because of general or localized population decline.

Substation

An assemblage of equipment, enclosed by fence, occurring at points along a transmission line. A facility in an electrical transmission system with the capability to route and control electrical power and to transform power to a higher or lower voltage. Equipment includes transformers, circuit breakers and other equipment for switching, changing or regulating the voltage of electricity.

System Reliability

The ability of a power system to provide uninterrupted service.

Tangent Structure

Typical transmission line structure, one of several types, placed four to five per mile in linear position.

Transformer

A device for transferring electrical energy from one current to another by magnetic induction, usually between circuits of different voltages. Consists of a magnetic core on which there are two or more windings. In power systems, most frequently used for changing voltage levels.

Transmission Capacity
The maximum load that a transmission line or network of transmission lines is designed to carry.

Transmission Lines
High voltage electric conductors used for bulk movement of large volumes of power across relatively long distances.

VAR
voltamperes reactive. The unit of measurement of reactive power in a circuit. Equal to the product of volts and amperes 90 degrees out of phase (KVAR = kilovar or 1,000 var; MVAR = megavar or 1,000 kilovar).

Variety Class
A designation (A, B or C) assigned to a homogeneous area of the landscape to indicate the visual importance or quality relative to other landscape areas within the same physiographic province (FWS designation).

Vegetation Communities
Species of plants commonly living together in the same region or ecotone.

Viewshed
Visible portion of the specific landscape seen, from a viewpoint or along a transportation corridor, normally limited by landform, vegetation, distance and existing cultural modifications.

Visual Management Objectives
The term used in this study to generally define VRM (BLM) or VQO classes (Forest Service).

Visual Management System
System of land management based upon meeting visual resource goals (Forest Service).

Visual Resource Management (VRM) Classes
Classification of landscapes according to the kinds of structures and changes acceptable to meet established visual goals (BLM).

Visual Sensitivity Levels
The index of the relative degree of user interesting scenic quality and concern for existing or proposed changes in the landscape features of that area in relation to other areas in the study area.

Visual Quality Objectives

Classification of landscape areas according to the types of structures and changes acceptable to meet established visual goals (Forest Service designation).

Volt

A unit of electrical pressure. It measures the force or push of electricity. Volts represent pressure, correspondent to the pressure of water in a pipe. A volt is the unit of electromotive force or electric pressure analogous to water pressure in pounds per square inch. It is the electromotive force which, if steadily applied to a circuit having a resistance of one ohm, will produce a current ampere.

Volt-amperes

The volt-amperes of an electric circuit are the mathematical products of the volts and amperes of the client.

Voltage

Measure of the force of moving energy.

Volts Per Meter (v/m)

A unit of measurement of an electric field.

Watt

The electric unit of power or rate of doing work. One horsepower is equivalent to approximately 746 watts.

Western Systems Coordinating Council (WSCC)

One of the ten regional reliability councils that make up the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC).

Wetlands

Areas that are inundated by surface or groundwater with a frequency sufficient to support a prevalence of vegetative or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction.